GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:220
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
AGRI CLINICS/ BUSINESS CENTRES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agri-Clinics/Agri-Business Centres opened in the country, State-wise;

(b) the main objectives of opening these Clinics/Centres;

(c) whether any new Agri-Clinics/Agri-Centres are proposed to be set up during 2008-09 in the country including Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Since inception of the Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Scheme, 5726 Agri-Clinics & Agri- Business Centres have been opened in the country upto 9th October, 2008. The State-wise Centres are as under:

Andhra Pradesh (281), Arunachal Pradesh (01), Assam (48), Bihar (670), Chhattisgarh (63), Goa (01), Gujarat (158), Haryana (36), Himachal Pradesh (65), J&K (42), Jharkhand (24), Karnataka (687), Kerala (15), Madhya Pradesh (137), Maharashtra (1030), Manipur (43), Nagaland (03), Orissa (74), Pondicherry (05), Punjab (37), Rajasthan (605), Tamil Nadu (330), Uttar Pradesh (1270), Uttaranchal (49), West Bengal (52).

(b): The main objectives of opening these Clinics/Centres are:

(i) To provide extension and other services to farmers on payment basis;

(ii) To support agriculture development; and

(iii) To promote self-employment.

(c): So far, 535 new Agri-Clinices & Agri-Business Centres have been established upto 9th October, 2008, including 26 centres in Rajasthan during 2008-09. However, setting up of more centres till the end of this financial year would mainly depend on the agriculture graduates being trained under the scheme.

(d): The steps taken to set up more centres during 2008-09 include:

(i) Continuous training of agriculture graduates subject to their availability.

(ii) Facilitating the trained graduates to start an agri-venture and providing them with the handholding support by the Nodal Training Institutes for one year on completion of the training.

(iii) Availing loan by the trained agriculture graduate on demand from nationalized banks for setting up of agri-ventures.

(iv) Providing trained agricultural graduates with credit linked capital subsidy of 25% of the capital cost of the project funded. This subsidy is 33.33% in respect of candidates belonging to SC/ST, women and other disadvantaged sections and those from North-Eastern and hill areas. Full interest subsidy is also eligible for the first two years of the project.